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Concluding Remarks

Yoko Namikawa

In the workshop, Professor Perry started her paper from the story of John Douglas, a Scottish man who moved to Demerara in order to work there in the early nineteenth-century. After staying there for several years, he returned to Scotland and back to Demerara again. James Douglas, one of John's children, born in Demerara moved to Scotland for education and then moved to Canada to enter the NWC service and also engage in the fur-trade.

The next generation, James's son and daughter also migrated for the experience of a metropolitan education and went back to Victoria, Canada.

In her paper, Professor Perry also showed the case of migration between North America and the Caribbean of James's wife's lineage.

John had his family in Demerara with a colored woman and James's wife was an indigenous woman. The Douglas family established themselves as a successful elite family in Victoria, Canada but most family members did not remain there any more in the third generation and scattered all over the British Empire.

People moved quite often and the direction was not fixed. They moved across the colonies. The movement of space often changed their social status, and sometimes migrants transcended racial boundaries, or acquired a new racial identity, that is, the cross colonial movement influenced the transformation or creation of racial and class identities. In addition, gender framework also fluctuated with the movement.

The paper presented by Dr. Matsuda showed us the migration pattern of Okinawan people to colonial Taiwan and Korea. Okinawa, a kind of the internal colony of imperial Japan sent many people out to Japanese colonies from the late nineteenth-century. This movement was similar to that of the Irish population in the same period.

These papers share some points; firstly, the movement was not linear but circuitous. They repeated migration several times in the course of their lifetime; secondly, the peripheral area of metropole such as Scotland and Okinawa and the center of the periphery were the focal points of the cross imperial movement.

John Douglas moved out from Scotland, the periphery of Britain to Demerara. People migrated from Okinawa to Taipei and Seoul, centers of periphery of the Japanese Empire. This workshop and our research project extended the perspective of the geographical framework of the research, that is, we were stimulated by the works of the new imperial history. As Professor Fujikawa's comment explained the new imperial history and its theoretical problem well, many points are left for further research.

About the relationship between the movement of the space and the social mobility of non-elites is one point.

The papers presented here suggest the complex mobility of people reconfigured their identity of race, gender and class. It also reshapes the multi-layered relationship of inner-colonialism and colonialism.

Our team is now working on the analysis of the mutual impact on the formation of the method of integration and ruling among the British, French and Japanese Empire.

We deeply appreciate for all the participants of the workshop.

We hope to soon organize the next workshop to discuss these topics. Please join the discussion again.